



INVITATION

International Conference

Jewish Museum Berlin, July 9, 2013

Public History of the Holocaust

Historical Research in the Digital Age

The digital age presents challenges as well as opportunities for historians and historical collection holders. History thrives through the Internet but is also unsettled by it. As more and more citizens not only have access to data, but can also handle and present facts, data and interpretations in a way they see fit, the need for historians to engage with this new digital public becomes by working towards a new (digital) public history.

The field of history is becoming more democratized as citizens engage in documenting and analyzing the past. At the same time, new digital techniques and methodologies offer new perspectives on cooperation within the humanities and on integration of data. Research infrastructures for history can address needs both from researchers and a more general audience. They support quality representation of the past and citizen engagement in historical work.

These developments are especially relevant for the history of the Holocaust, which has never been an exclusively academic undertaking. Today Holocaust studies continue to have a manifest public dimension. The Internet has created a new public space where experts and a general audience can converge to write and analyse history together and history truly becomes public history.

An international conference in Berlin for researchers and policymakers will cover the challenges for historical research on the Holocaust in the age of the Internet and the possibilities of meeting these challenges through new forms of digital research infrastructures.

You are cordially invited by EHRI, DARIAH, and TextGrid to attend this event, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Conny Kristel

Heike Neuroth

Tobias Blanke

Program

09.30 - 10.00 Arrival and Registration

10.00 - 10.10 Welcome and Introduction by Conny Kristel, co-organizer of the conference

Policies for Public History and Research Infrastructures

10.10 - 10.25 Johanna Wanka, Federal Minister for Education and Research of Germany

10.25 - 10.40 Shai Piron, Minister of Education of Israel

10.40 - 10.55 Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General of DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

Public History of the Holocaust

10.55 - 11.25 Georgi Verbeeck, Professor of German history at KU Leuven, Belgium

11.25 - 11.40 Discussion

11.40 – 11.50 Audio-visual Introduction to the Topic

Practicing Public History, Part 1

11.50 – 12.05 Avner Shalev, Director of Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

12.05 - 12.20 Sara Bloomfield, Director of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC

12.20 - 12.35 Discussion

12.35 - 14.25 Lunch & Project Presentations

Practicing Public History, Part 2

14.25 - 14.40 Rebecca Boehling, Director of International Tracing Service, Bad Arolsen

14.40 - 14.55 Prof Dr Angelika Menne-Haritz, Vice President Bundesarchiv - German Federal Archives

14.55 - 15.10 Discussion

15.10 - 15.45 Tea/Coffee Break

History in the Digital Public Space – Opportunities and Challenges

15.45 - 17.00 Panel, moderated by a presenter and journalist from ARD:

- Yossi Matias, Managing Director Israel R&D Center, and Senior Director, Search, Google
- Jane Ohlmeyer, Erasmus Smith's Professor of Modern History, Trinity College, Dublin
- Ralph Schroeder, Professor at the Oxford Internet Institute at the University of Oxford
- Stephanie Schüler-Springorum, Professor and Director of the Center for Research on Antisemitism, Technical University Berlin
- Christopher Wolf, Hogan Lovells' Privacy and Information Management practice group, Washington DC

17.00 Reception

Further background on the conference and the organizing partners

Public information on the Internet requires the use of critical sources for reference and authority. Otherwise, the freedom and opportunity to publish anything anywhere can lead to the dissemination of misleading information. Therefore, practitioners of history, scholars or 'amateurs', need new approaches, enabling them to use the Internet in such a way that the abundance of data and archives is turned into overview, context and connection. For this reason, in the humanities, research infrastructures are being developed that are committed to providing quality information and to disseminating research methods and best practices in research data.

The conference will present initiatives by several European and German funded research infrastructures for the humanities to disseminate and integrate historical information about the Holocaust and historical-critical methodologies to digitally analyse these documents.

DARIAH is a pan-European digital research infrastructure to support integrating and preserving research data and digital research practices in the arts and humanities. The **TextGrid** project provides researchers with services and tools for analysing text data in distributed digital archives. **EHRI** supports pan-European Holocaust research in identifying and publishing Holocaust material. It works together with DARIAH to provide access to critical and scholarly resources on the Holocaust and to ensure the long-term availability of these materials.

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For information about the conference, please visit www.ehri-project.eu/public-history-holocaust.

DARIAH - Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities, <http://www.dariah.eu/> and <http://de.dariah.eu/>

TextGrid – Virtual Research Environment for the Humanities, <http://www.textgrid.de>

EHRI - European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, <http://www.ehri-project.eu/>

BMBF - Federal Ministry of Education and Research, <http://www.bmbf.de/en/>

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